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WRL NEWS

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THE CALENDARS ARE LATE—BUT THEY'RE COMING

The 1971 Peace Calendars will arrive from the printer quite late this year, (Dec. 1) but not too late to reach you before Christmas. So, don't despair!

This year's calendar, compiled by Mayer Vishner, and with an introduction by Pete Seeger, features lyrics of popular songs. It is $2 a copy, $5 for 3, $10 for 6—post paid. Gift cards will be inserted upon request.

PROTEST CANADA'S CRACKDOWN

The War Resisters International "appeals to peace movements everywhere to voice their protest against . . . the mass suppression of civil rights particularly in Quebec" following the kidnapping and murder of Pierre Laporte.

A statement issued October 23, says: "WRI expresses its greatest sympathy and complete solidarity with those in Canada today who are working for a non-exploitative and peaceful society and who are determined to resist application of the War Emergencies Act. We urge that people arrested arbitrarily be immediately released. The International hopes that Canada, a country which has an image of a libertarian society, will act more wisely than it has done in recent weeks."

The statement was issued after WRI received a report from its contact in Montreal saying: "Today Quebec is under military occupation and under martial law. Major civil liberties have been suspended, including the Canadian Bill of Rights, until April 1971. People are being arrested, their homes raided, their offices searched, printing machinery and all sorts of other material seized."

The report asserted that more than 300 persons of diverse political viewpoints had been arrested to date, with the number increasing every day. Pacifists like Michael Chartrand and Jean Roy, are among those imprisoned. Roy, a sponsor of last year's WRI Triennial Conference in Haverford, went on a hunger strike. Persons arrested can be held in jail without charges for up to 21 days and for 90 days before being brought to trial, under the War Emergencies Act. Police can arrest anyone and search anywhere without a warrant. (A Nov. 5 AP dispatch from Montreal reporting arraignment of the first 24, put the total arrests since Oct. 16 at 429.)

Quebec-Presse, the mass circulation trade unionist weekly, on October 17 printed a list of Quebec citizens who have called for massive civil resistance against the War Emergencies Act.

THE BUS . . . AND . . . THE BOAT

THE BUS . . .

by Mike Russell

I find writing a description of the Rainbow Bus a difficult task. Provide me with a few hours of your time and I can begin to construct for you this project's potentialities and limitations; provide me with a column of type and the best I can do is detail some of my thoughts for the project.

I have felt for a long time that effecting a nonviolent change in the practices of the government requires more than a centralized exposition on the virtues of nonviolence—which ultimately is relayed to the general population through the established media's inevitable distortion. I am sure that people can be

(continued on page 2)

. . . THE BOAT

by Wendy Schwartz

In early spring Scott Herrick will load his boat *Mondcivitano* (World Citizen) with pictures drawn or painted by children, and sail to Cuba, where he and his crew will present the artwork to Cuban children. By so doing, Scott and the other people on board will be violating the U.S. Trading With the Enemy Act and will risk confiscation of the vessel, heavy fines, and possible imprisonment.

This trip, conceived by Scott and coordinated by WRL, is an effort to challenge the American embargo against trade with Cuba and to open communications between Cuban and American children. A. J. Muste once said that

(continued on page 2)

DR. & MRS. SPOCK AT TIMES SQ. VIGIL'S 6th ANNIV.

photo by Diana Davies

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THE BUS . . . *(continued)*

convinced that nonviolent change is indeed possible only if they are reached-out-to personally.

WRL has provided for me and several others just such an opportunity when it bought a 1959 school bus and provided us with the money to convert it to a mobile home, fully equipped with a kitchen, bathroom, mimeograph machine and even a library.

There presently are three of us aboard the Rainbow Bus. I have spent nearly two years in the Resistance, some time in developing educational alternatives, and have worked as a journalist and photographer. Norman Thomas, having refused to complete his alternative service, spent several months working for the National Council to Repeal the Draft and recently has been appointed to the White House Conference on Youth — Draft and National Service Task Force, where he acts as a challenger of the other governmental representatives. Bob Bady, a New York High School organizer, has spent several months traveling around the country contacting other WRL chapters and talking with people on nonviolent resistance.

We're hoping to balance the team by finding three women to work in areas of their interest and expertise (hopefully women's lib, abortion information, etc.)

When we have made-ready the bus and filled out the team we'll start traveling to some of the less glamorous and more isolated campuses and communities, discussing and demonstrating the potential of nonviolent resistance. We plan to offer an alternative to violent change by the way we live and through the content of our actions.

Potentially the bus can serve also as a vehicle for assembling research being done by individuals across the country, and provide contact for people in the field who may feel very isolated.

The Rainbow Bus is seen then, not only as an experiment in the development of a nonviolent life-style, but as an information center for a diversity of issues—a mobile workshop in nonviolence. Anyone interested in participating in the project should contact me through the WRL office.

Sponsored by 12 New York peace groups including WRL, the Times Square Saturday matinee vigil (photo on page 1) is the longest-lasting of the many vigils across the country over the Vietnam war years. It started in October 1964. (If you have any free time on Saturday between 12:30 and 2:30, join it. You don't have to stay the full 2 hours. On icy Saturdays, the vigilers need a coffee break.)

. . . THE BOAT *(continued)*

what we need is a "foreign policy for children," and this Cuban project is WRL's attempt to implement A.J.'s thinking. Hopefully the Cuban people will join in on the project and give the Mondcivitano crew their own artworks to bring back to the U.S.

Right now WRL is engaged in the collection process. We are trying to get a fair sampling of children's art from all over the country. While we would prefer pictures that depict either brotherhood or peace, any art will be acceptable as long as it's not too large to fit on the boat. We hope also to get people involved enough in the project to set up displays of their pictures locally before they send them to the national office. These displays would interest community people in the project, thereby hopefully fostering a climate conducive to the idea of opening cultural and economic trade with Communist countries. Such shows also would generate additional media interest in the project that might influence the government to reconsider its embargo policy or at least to refrain from prosecuting the Mondcivitano crew.

If you collect children's art in your local area, or if you'd like to set up displays, please contact me at WRL. We need all the help we can get if we are to build world friendship and a "foreign policy for children." An action outline detailing what you can do locally, is being sent to WRL organizers. If you want a copy, write us.

WANT TO WORK FOR WRI IN LONDON?

WRL has a program of sending a young interne to the international office in London for a year's time. The interne receives a subsistance wage while working there and the fare to London and back is paid jointly by the international and WRL.

If you are interested in applying for this job, write WRL as soon as possible. The job starts in March.

* * *

Jose Luis ("Pepe") Beunza is the first Spaniard to object to conscription on pacifist grounds, reports WRI. He thus faces the prospect of seven years in one of Franco's military prisons. There are at present some 200 draft objectors in Spanish jails but all are Jehovah's Witnesses.

ANNUAL AWARD TO MILITARY RESISTERS

This year, at its annual dinner, WRL gave the Twelfth Annual Peace Award to persons resisting within the military. While the award is to go to all military resisters, three of them were at the ceremony to pick up their scrolls in person. They were Russ Malone, who received an undesirable discharge from the Army last year after taking sanctuary in an Atlanta church, and who is now organizing resistance through AWIN; Cornelius Cooper, who is a West Point graduate now trying to get his CO application approved by the Army; and Terry Klug, a former serviceman who was part of the Fort Dix rebellion last year and who is now working for the American Servicemen's Union. Both Malone and Klug did time in Leavenworth. Also present was Walter Collins, a black organizer for the Southern Conference Educational Fund which is presently appealing the five-year sentence he got for refusing induction.

The dinner was held in the Washington Square Methodist Church, also home of the Greenwich Village Peace Center, and was a pot luck meal. About two hundred people were present, and most brought delicious dishes to share. After the formal part of the program was completed, many of the WRLers joined in singing folk songs and dancing. But the real-sense community spirit was demonstrated when the men chased the women out of the kitchen after the meal and did all the cleaning up themselves.

A special issue of WAR RESISTANCE (organ of WRI) on "Problems of Economic Development" now is available from WRL for 75c. It is based on an international seminar in London this past February attended by representatives of 17 countries and sponsored jointly by WRI and World Peace Council.

ENROLLMENT BLANK

Send to War Resisters League
339 Lafayette Street, N. Y., N.Y. 10012

WAR IS A CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY.
I THEREFORE AM DETERMINED NOT TO SUPPORT ANY KIND OF WAR, INTERNATIONAL OR CIVIL, AND TO STRIVE FOR THE REMOVAL OF ALL THE CAUSES OF WAR

signature _____

address _____

city _____

state _____ *zip code*

ONE MORNING IN THE WAR

(Editor's Note—These are excerpts from what I consider the most memorable article of 1970—Robert Jay Lipton's New York Times Review of "A Report on The Massacre and Its Aftermath" by Seymour Hersh and "The Tragedy at Son My" by Richard Hammer)

The American invasion of Cambodia and the killings at Kent State, Augusta and Jackson State dramatically accentuated a national emergency that has actually been with us for so long as to be virtually chronic. That emergency includes at least three terrifying dimensions: the possibility of nuclear war resulting from our provocative military adventurism in Southeast Asia; a state of spiritual degradation and conflict more extreme than any in recent memory and a pervasive sense of extreme incompetence and instability in the country's political and military leadership. In the face of all this, can we view My Lai as past history, overtaken by new and more immediate threats?

I think not. My Lai, in fact, is the essence of the American problem. When we take a good look at the significance of what happened there—as these two fine books by Seymour Hersh and Richard Hammer help us do—we meet our present situation head on. We recognize in much of American behavior and inclination at My Lai something that can only be called existential evil. And that evil is deeply bound up with illusion.

Everything about My Lai speaks of death—not only death but the most absurd and unacceptable forms of death.

The slaughter took place midst the generally indiscriminate killing of Vietnamese civilians by American air bombing and artillery and small arms fire, especially but not exclusively in such "free-fire zones" as the Son My area.

More symbolically, one may speak of the death of responsibility within the American military. And one senses a much more general death of American moral authority. My Lai was not the cause but the result of these symbolic deaths —of the pattern of "rule by nobody" (in Hannah Arendt's phrase) or the "system of non-responsibility" (in Masao Maruyama's) that has prevailed in Vietnam. There has been no clear point of responsibility for all of the dying and killing, bodily or symbolic.

One must then raise questions about the responsibility of General Westmoreland, then Commanding General in Vietnam, of the top generals in the Pentagon, the Secretary of Defense and the President—for creating the policies that legitimize this indiscriminate killing, and indeed for insisting that we intervene violently in a revolutionary civil war in Southeast Asia, at such appalling cost to the Vietnamese (and now to the Laotians and Cambodians), and to Americans as well.

But such men are far away, and moreover, have "good reasons" for doing what they do—helping the South Vietnamese to repel an "outside invasion" or to live under a "democratic government." Never mind the fact that both contentions are illusory, as is the American-style program for propping up an unwilling army and an even more unwilling people to resist a relatively popular and much more efficient revolutionary force, through a program named (the irony is strictly unconscious) "Vietnamization."

Such illusions in turn derive from a still extant cold-war cosmology characterized by a sense of absolute American virtue and equally absolute Communist depravity—along with a peculiarly American brand of technological pragmatism which views the whole situation in Vietnam as no more than "a job to be done" with the help of "American know-how." So that although ultimate responsibility must be assigned to our military and political leaders, their distance from the events together with their cosmology enhance their psychic numbing—their inability to FEEL what really goes on in a free fire zone, what it is like to be a peasant in a premodern culture victimized by the incredible firepower released by advanced American technology of destruction. Or for that matter, how it feels to be a terrified, profoundly confused, and depersonalized GI doing the firing.

Then add to this deadly system of non-responsibility Hammer's shocking disclosure that My Lai was a mistake—Americans had meant to go into a different subhamlet where Vietcong were really active. You are left with a sense of the profound alienation—the lost bearings and unconnectedness —of our combat units. The American presence in Vietnam becomes that of a hideous blind giant, skilled at killing but unable to "see" what he kills. My Lai now permits us to take a good look.

And My Lai IS America in Vietnam—no more, no less. Of the more than 50 GIs I have talked to about such matters, the only surprise I heard expressed about My Lai was about the fact that so much fuss was made of it. Of course more people were killed there than is usual, but to claim that My Lai is in any way unique is to insult our intelligence and to distort history. Both books make this absolutely clear, to the credit of the two authors.

Do you wonder now about our body counts in Cambodia? Do you see any relationship between My Lai and Kent State —not in any literal sense but in the two situations involving young Americans in uniform, confused about their mission and fearful about their own safety, acting in that obscure area between orders and unchanneled emotion, and ending up applying inappropriate and deadly force at the expense of the innocent? Do you see any relationship between phrases used by GIs such as "Indian Country" (to describe areas in which Vietcong reside), or "the only good dink is a dead dink," and earlier historical patterns of American racism? Or to the more recent words of a Mississippi State Trooper: "Better get an ambulance. We just killed some niggers." Does the easy killing of Vietnamese have something to do with the difference between the national outcry over Kent State and the relatively quiet response to Jackson State and Augusta?

When I talk to students about My Lai, some simply shrug and say, "What can you expect?" From the war, they mean —but also from America. I, for one, enraged as I am—and that is the only proper mental state for anyone who has read these two books—still expect more. My feeling about My Lai is the same as that of one of the GIs who described it as "just like a Nazi type thing." It is indeed just the kind of thing we were supposed to be fighting AGAINST in world war 2. I think the young really expect more from America too, as they are showing in the vast effort they are leading to turn the country around. to demonstrate above all to themselves, that there is more to America than My Lai.

Before this can be accomplished, we must recognize how much of America is in My Lai. Ronald Ridenhour, a veteran of the Vietnam war who had chanced upon the My Lai story, heroically and virtually singlehandedly insisted that his country confront this evil. His effort was continued by Seymour Hersh in his dedicated and enlightened pursuit of the full story, culminating in this caustically understated book depicting an American military company's step-by-step passage into barbarism—all of which adds up to a great journalistic achievement. Nothing could be more indicative of our country's moral and psychological schizophrenia than its perpetration and sustained denial of My Lai on the one hand, and on the other its very just award of its highest journalistic honor, the Pulitzer Prize, to Hersh for exposing the crime for all to see.

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PRISONERS FOR PEACE–1970

This year, because the list compiled thus far by WRI is quite incomplete (except for Jehovah's Witnesses in Spain), we are not listing war resisters imprisoned abroad. Such a list may be obtained from the War Resisters International, 3 Caledonian Road, London N 1, England. And by the time you contact them, their list may be more complete.

No personal messages are permitted on holiday cards sent to the prisoners. On occasion cards are returned because a prisoner has been transferred or released or because local prison authorities are unaware that prisoners *can* receive holiday cards from persons *not* on their approved correspondence list. Such returned cards should be sent to the U.S. Bureau of Prisons, 101 Indiana Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. 20001.

For those who find that they cannot mail a card to every prisoner, one WRL member suggested mailing one card to each prison. Address it to the man the spelling of whose last name is closest to your own.

Federal Prison, Allenwood, Pennsylvania 17810
Bud Alcock, John Back, Paul Beach, Rick Boardman, Willy Boss, Butch Bush, Jack Cook, Bill Curry, Dave Dunlap, Bob Eaton, Rich Fallow, Al Futterman, Dave Goldberg, Richard Harris, John Hogan, Tom Marsden, Pat Mikesell, George Mische, Joel Myers, Douglas Pope, Tony Ramos, Arnold Sandbank, Staughton Sebastian, Chuck Simington, Mike Simmeons, Ken Stapel, George Tomaccio, Steve Tyler, Dick Wiley, Mike Williams.

Federal Prison, Ashland, Kentucky 41101
Jon Bayless, Dan Brustein, Richard Chandler, Bruce Dancis, Frank Femia, Ed Gargan, George Green, Chip Tallon, Robert Wright.

Kanawha County Jail, Charleston, West Virginia
Richard Cowen

Federal Prison, Danbury, Connecticut 06810
Dan Berrigan, Phil Berrigan, Larry Dobie, Jewel Kittrell, Irwin Messinger, Richard Strout.

Federal Prison, El Reno, Oklahoma 73036
Jackson Clark, Dick Ghee, Bill Sweeney

Federal Detention Camp, Florence, Arizona 85232
Robert Heidel

Federal Prison, La Tuna, Tex. P.O. Anthony, New Mexico 88021
Paul Barnes, Tod Friend, David Harris, Randy Kehler, Joe Maizlish, Larry Moore, Nick Reidy

Federal Prison, Lewisburg, Pennsylvania 17837
Tom Comar, Dave Eberhard, Robert Jackson, Tom Lewis, Jim MacNabb, Robert Malecki, Tom Melville, Bob Siegel, Larry Smith

Federal Prison, Milan, Michigan 48160
Paul Chopp, George Crocker, Dale Doten, Michael Ferguson, James Kirts, Rick Kowall

Federal Prison, Lompoc, Calif. 93436
Ron Appling, Jonathan Bell, Alan Como, Buck Dubois, Bill Garetz, Mike Lester, Morris Lipson, Randy Milliken, Eric Parker, Ernest Price, Mike Schwartz, Robert Shunk, Walt Skinner, Martin Torigian, Ray Williams

Federal Prison, McNeil Island, Steilacoom, Washington 98388
Tony Cowan, Bob Barret, H. Davidson, Arthur Hart, John Kangas, Wallis McReynolds, David Ritchy, Ron Wagner, Richard Kokotan

Federal Prison, Petersburg, Va. 23803
Michael Billingsley, Robert Brake, Howard Castleberry, Ray Cavalier, Robert LaDue, Ronald LaDue, Ken Lewis, Arthur Moskowitz, David Muserlian, Herbert, Pitts, Vincent Spruill, Robert Taylor, Ray White, Robert Wray

Federal Youth Center, Morgantown, W. Va. 26505
Ralph Squire

Federal Prison, Safford, Ariz. 85546
Ronald Anderson, Thaver Ashton, Kevin Boyle, David Brown, Dobie Campbell, John Cochran, Ken Copperburg, Dennis Dade, Timothy DuBois, Geoffrey Fishman, William Gutierrez, Marty Harris, Mike Haseltine, John Jarvie, Terry John, Christopher Jones, Brad Littlefield, Lou Motisher, Nick Parks, Jeff Segal, Jan Thompson, Michael Vane, Art Zack

Federal Prison, Sandstone, Minn. 55072
Jon Bach, Fred Chase, Michael Cullen, Mike DeBartolo, Steven Evans, Chuck Fullencamp, Ron Lucas, Thomas Jahrmann, Jerry Malmanger, Elwood Moore, Joe Mulligan, Leroy Stark, M. Sagedahl, Don Swanson, Ernest Theel, Roger Yule

Federal Prison, Springfield, Mo. 65802
Brett Cassidy, Cecil Cheatom, Ed Hoffmans, Steve Kandlick, Loren Lentz, David Lindeman, Ed Marr, Kevin McMillen, Jim Moore, Danny Owens, Douglas Roemer, David Schwartz

Federal Prison, Terminal Island, San Pedro, Calif. 90731
Jay Bergman, Vince O'Connor, Walter Smith

Federal Prison, Terre Haute, Indiana
Bernie Meyer, Les Bayless

State Prison, Box C, Waupun, Wisc. 53963
Fr. Lawrence Rosebaugh

Ft. McPherson Stockade, Atlanta, Ga. 30330
Luke Allison

Ft. Gordon Stockade, Augusta, Ga. 30905
Edward Lestage

Ft. Jackson Stockade, Columbia, S.C. 29207
Chris Beam, John Black, Charles Lovachoff, John Teichert

U. S. Naval Hospital, Ward 5N, B735 428, Oakland, Calif. 94614
John Veal

Ft. Riley Stockade, Junction City, Kans. 66442
Herman Willoughby

Letterman Hospital, U.S. Public Health Service, San Francisco, Cal. 94118
Ron Bolden, Carl Chochran, Fred Cralle, Dan Malone, William Rettalick

Brig. Gen. Detail, Marine Barracks, US Naval Base, FPO, San Francisco, 96610
Mike Waters

Naval Correctional Inst., Portsmouth, N.H. 03804
Young C. Gray, Craig Murphey, Hanyo Smith

Ft. Lewis Stockade, Wash. 98433
James B. Allen, Mr. Bright, Wade Carson, Jon Creek, Carl Dix, Jr. Roy Easterday, Paul A. Forest, George Garcia, Thomas Holte, Patrick Johnson, Russ Lake, Robert Markovitch, Joe Parisi, Doug Patton, Manuel Perez, Mr. Stallings, William Thompson III, Mike Vogel

Disciplinary Barracks, Drawer A., Ft. Leavenworth, Kans. 66027
Edwin Arnett, Bill Bagby, Raynaldo Barela, Craig Blackburn, Bill Brakefield, Roger Bussard, Lee Cooley, David Daly, Robert T. Ellis, Charles Evans, James E. Fagnoni, Howard Finegold, George Fussell, Dan Gifford, Harland Hurd, Paul Jenkins, Julian Lee, Wes Mattern, John McLaughlin, Robert Murphy, Herman Respess, Jeff Russell, Thom Samson, Jim Scholz, James Westergreen, Griswold Wilson III, John C. Wilson

NEW LEAFLET ON MIDEAST

Because some of our members feel that Vietnam has caused us to neglect the Mideast and that we should not delay action until a crisis situation such as erupted in that area recently, WRL has just printed a new leaflet which members can distribute in their communities. You can either reprint it locally or order copies from us ($1 per 100). Since the leaflet is so brief, we are reprinting it in its entirety here:

WHICH SIDE ARE *YOU* ON IN THE MIDEAST? . . .

WE'RE ON THE SIDE OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE

Peaceful coexistence is the ONLY livable solution—for both the Israelis and the Arabs. The present policy of cold war, alternately bursting out in hot war, is self-defeating and can lead only to hot war. Hot war—with the big powers now mobilized on either side—may well lead to World War III and total destruction.

There are some voices for peace on both sides. Abie Nathan's PEACE SHIP is but one example. The Quakers' SEARCH FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST is another. There is the United Nations. These voices must be supported.

We believe both Israel and the Arab states have the right to exist. We appeal to both Arabs and Israelis to take even the smallest steps toward peace, unilaterally. We urgently appeal to both sides to accept their respective responsibility for resettling the refugees now and for eliminating the miserable refugee camps which have been the Mideast's cancer for the past 23 years. Each side should begin this effort immediately, without waiting for a final territorial settlement.

Hopeless you say? It's the only hope in a tragic, complex and potentially disastrous situation. It's not easy in the highly charged emotional atmosphere surrounding the conflict to make a humane judgment. It's impossible if you can only rely on the biased statements of one side or the other.

* * *

Uri Davis Speaking Tour

Distribution of the new leaflet would be particularly appropriate in connection with the present U.S. speaking tour by Uri Davis, 27-year-old philosophy student and a leader of the Israeli movement for justice through nonviolence.

WRLers who would like him to speak in their area should contact Rabbi Everett Gendler, Box 450, Stoughton, Mass. 02072. Phone 617-344-8172.

ORGANIZING NOTES

by Jerry Coffin

After more than two years of intensive work in the Wilmington/Newark, area, *Delaware WRL* has been forced to close. It's ironic that just as the Delaware WRL program had grown to include a printing press and storefront office a series of personal, eonomic, and movement problems combined to force the closing of the Delaware operation. Local groups come and go and we shouldn't be surprised. But no matter how common it is, the ending of an organizing project always leaves one feeling empty and depressed. Ed Sohodski is now working with the Navy Project of Philadelphia Resistance. Connie Sohodski is working at Neil Haworth's Grindstone Press in New York City.

* * *

Those of you who are subscribers to WIN Magazine have already read about the arrest of *WRL-Southwest* Coordinator Sig Martinez by Military Police. Craig Simpson, the other coordinator sent the following report on Sig's arrest and the current activities of WRL-Southwest:

"Sig Martinez, coordinator of WRL-Southwest, the Southwest regional office, was arrested October 16 by the Military Police. Sig refused to attend National Guard meetings in February of this year and was activated into the Army in July. He refused to report, was ordered for induction, and on October 15 he refused to step forward when the oath was administered. He was arrested immediately and is now at Ft. Bliss in El Paso, Texas, awaiting trial.

"The southwest regional office of WRL is remaining quite active despite the arrest of coordinator Sig Martinez. Weekly pot luck dinners have brought Albuquerque's nonviolent community together and many projects come out of the meetings. Albuquerque organizers have helped to start the leafleting of induction centers daily, two classes in nonviolence (including a few weekend trips to Denver's Institute For The Study of Nonviolence), a Chicano women's organization, and organizing of high schools. The month's activities included an attempted disruption of Nixon's New Mexico campaign stop which resulted in several arrests, leafleting of political rallies, leafleting and talking to students at the University of New Mexico about the Kent State indictments, and a few confrontations with IRS officials. Next month's activities will most likely include a Resistance mass in support of the nonviolent antiwar movement in Vietnam, the first issue of our newspaper, the beginning of a cooperative food buying club, showing of Resistance films and the development of a guerrilla theatre group."

* * *

At the most recent WRL executive committee meeting a number of significant decisions relevant to local WRL organizing were made. Two decisions, the Rainbow Bus traveling commune and the Cuba project, are publicized elsewhere in this issue of WRL NEWS. A proposal for a network of regional travelers was also adopted. This proposal means that local WRL groups will be able to relate regularly to one another through a traveler financed by the national office. Regional WRL ties will be developed, thus creating a stronger radical pacifist presence throughout the country. In addition the regional travelers will work with local people in developing new local WRL groups and will be available as an organizing resource. As the regional traveler project stands, the EC is prepared to fund travelers out of each of our regional offices. This means that as local groups become stronger in their own community and are able to function in the expanded capacity of a regional office the national office will provide the resources enabling a real regional organizing effort. Currently the budget for regional traveling submitted by Atlanta WIN, our southern regional office, has been approved. Any of our southern members who wish to help in organizing a local WRL group should write to AWIN, PO Box 7477, Atlanta, Ga. 30309, for help through the regional traveling program.

* * *

If you would like to begin organizing a local WRL program or wish more information about our existing locals, please write to me at the National Office.

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STRIKING THE DRAFT

by David McReynolds

The present draft law expires in June, 1971. When a thing expires it is time to bury it—but the draft may set a precedent by being buried before it expires.

The Charlottesville Pledge originated as a national project from the UNDO (Union for National Draft Opposition) Conference at Princeton this year. The statement is very simple and thousands upon thousands of draft age men have already signed it. It is a pledge for all men of draft age, stating simply that once 100,000 men have signed the pledge they will then "strike the draft," refusing all further cooperation—no notices of change of address, no requests for exemption or deferment, *no further contact at all with the selective service system*. We reprint the pledge here, urge that you give it wide distribution in your own area by reprinting and circulating it. It is estimated that close to 25,000 men have already signed the pledge or simply mailed back their draft cards.

The Complicity Statement comes from the UNDO chapter at Union College and it is for all those who, because they are not draftable, cannot sign the Charlottesville Pledge (women, and men past draft age or with permanent exemptions such as 4-F). We urge this statement also be reproduced, hopefully in petition form, and circulated for as many signatures as possible and then returned to UNDO, Union College, Schenectady, New York 12308.

We want to urge, again, that these two statements be copied locally and distributed. The Charlottesville Pledge should be reproduced as a single card, for only one man to sign and mail in. The Complicity Statement should be prepared as a petition.

And from the West Coast, SHOWDOWN. One of the great things about the anti-draft and resistance movements is how widespread they are, so that the same kind of ideas occur all over the nation, and some of the most radical ideas come from small colleges in rather remote areas. The Charlottesville Pledge didn't start at Princeton or Columbia, at Yale, Harvard, Antioch or the University of California. No, it began in Charlottesville. The complicity statement is being pushed not from NYC, Chicago, or Philly, but from, of all places, Schenectady. And now an ambitious new thrust has come in from Northern California, backed so far by: Campus Resistance, Peace Brigade, Radical Student Union, San Francisco Liberation Front, and War Resisters League. The idea is called simply: SHOWDOWN. It calls for a national strike against the draft on January 1.

The statement is brief enough: "On January the first of this year and thereafter, the youth of this country will collectively defy the draft." This means something of an extension of the Charlottesville Pledge—i.e., High school students would not register, and people would act without waiting for 100,000 names signed on pledges. But SHOWDOWN is not in opposition to the UNDO program—it is more of a West Coast version of it. The War Resisters League staff is providing what help it can to see that national liason is established among all these groups and no one can promise that 100,000 people will sign the Charlottesville Pledge, or that everyone will "strike the draft" on January 1. But what is important is that the resistance to the draft continues and white, middle class college students are becoming aware that the present technique of getting medical deferments only means that black youth and poor whites will be drafted in their place. Individual resistance to the draft is building now toward collective resistance that will help to bury the draft system altogether so that the Administration can't shift the draft burden from middle class whites onto the poor, but will have to end the draft altogether. For specific information on SHOWDOWN, particularly if you live on the West Coast, write: SHOWDOWN, 381 Hayes St., San Francisco, Calif. 94102. And don't forget to use "On The Resistance" in your local work. (This is the pamphlet recently sent free to our mailing list, which contains strong statements by Mike Ferber and Dave Harris—it is available for 20 cents each, 8/$1, 100 for $10).

Finally, one of the most encouraging aspects of the present movement is that the National Student Association was mandated by their last convention to get 85,000 Charlottesville pledges in by January 1. Unhappily a lack of money has slowed that down, but the largest American student association has put itself on the line in this effort to bury the draft by striking against it, refusing all cooperation.

Charlottesville Pledge

This is a pledge, not a petition—understand that before you sign.

My signature on this pledge means four things.

A. I feel that the present draft system in America is in violation of my constitutional rights and/or simply immoral.

B. I am nevertheless presently cooperating with the system, and am liable to be inducted into the armed forces or some type of alternate service.

C. I pledge that, when a hundred thousand draftable men have signed pledges like this, I will return my draft card to my local or national resistance headquarters where it will be forwarded with the other returned cards to the proper authorities. I pledge that after that time I will cease to cooperate with any type of draft system in any way.

D. I recognize that I am in no way immune from federal prosecution either for resisting the draft or conspiring to resist the draft.

Complicity Statement

To anyone not draftable:

Draft-age men are acting to resist the selective service system by surrendering their draft cards and refusing induction. We support, aid and abet this non-violent act of civil disobedience and encourage them in their efforts to hasten an end to the war in Indochina. (Persons are advised that by signing this statement they may incur penalties under federal law of imprisonment for not more than 5 years and/or a fine of not more than $10,000.)

Name ..... Telephone .....

Address ..... Occupation .....

Please return to: UNDO, Union College, Schenectady, New York 12308

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